THE NEEDS OF NEW YORK

More Extended Power Demanded for the Mayor.

A DEFECTIVE CRIMINAL CODE.

Prompt Retribution the Cure for Crime and Lawlessness.

NO STATE FUNDS FOR PRIVATE CHARITIES.

The Canals, Savings Banks, Taxation and Usury Laws Descanted On.

AN ABLE AND COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENT.

TO THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY:—
FELLOW CITIZENS—You are assembled under cirstances which demand the acknowledgment of our heartfelt thankfulness to the Sovereign Ruler of the universe. The year which has just closed is narked by the usual abundance of our harvests, the general prosperity of our people, our exemp-tion from the calamities of fire and flood, by which other communities have been desolated, and the sence of all minor evils, excepting such as are

the fruit of our own errors and improvidence. We have a special cause for gratulation in the revailing calm which has succeeded the late con-ested election of the Chief Magistrate of the Inion, furnishing, as it does, renewed evidence of the ready acquiescence of the people of the United States in whatever the majority, through the set-tled forms of the constitution, deliberately decide. Vhen we consider that five-sixths of all the States have cast their votes for the same candidate for seir suffrages may we not regard it as an indication that the animosities incident to the late de-plorable conflict between the two great secour country are gradually wearing away, and that a liberal and enlightened olicy on the part of Congress and the eminent citizen on whom the public confidence has been thus signally bestowed will lead to an tual and not far-distant oblivion of past difrences? No achievement can be more intimately erwoven with our common prosperity or more worthy of the co-operation of all good citizens than he obliteration of those sectional distinctions

The administration of the federal government during the last four years has, under many important aspects, been eminently successful. More ilc debt have been paid; the heavy burdens patrioti-cally assumed by the people, to prevent a dismem-berment of the Union by intestine war, have been essentially lightened through the abolition of taxes; lestions of an irritating character between us and Great Britain have been amicably and satisctorily settled; our obligations of good faith toward other nations have been scrupulously fulfilled and the peace of the country has been inflexibly maintained in the presence of events which appealed with great force to our sympathies as a free

Withdrawing the attention from the broader field of our federal relations, and bringing it within the rcle of our own immediate concerns, may I not peal to you in the spirit of conciliation which ages for the former a tranquil future, to forget t party associations have ever divided us, and invoke your earnest and patriotic concurrence in the orrection of abuses, the consideration of which ered so largely into the recent State election, in regard to which the popular will has been so

Receipts. \$14,807,252
Payments. 14,455,552

	Debt on the 30th Septem- ber, 1872.	Balance of Sinking Funds on the 30th Septem- ber, 1872.	Balance of Debt after a plying Sin ing Funds
Contingent Canal Bounty	\$3,984,526 68,000 11,336,680 21,121,000	\$2,787,567 19,710 1,449,978 6,930,224	\$1,200,9 48,2 9,946,7 14,190,7
· Total	\$36,574,206	\$11,187,480	

\$1,202,571 received since the close of the fiscal year, and from the slaking fund of the bounty fund the interest accrued to October 1,1872, payable January 1, 1873, has been deducted.

Thus the entire funded debt of the State, on the 30th of September, 1872, after deducting unapplied balances of the slaking funds, amounted to \$25,386,725. On the 30th of September, 1871, the entire funded debt of the State, after a like deduction, was \$29,482,702. There was, therefore, during the last financial year, a reduction in the amount of the funded debt of \$4,005,076.

REDEMITION OF THE STATE DEBT.

On the first day of this month \$847,500 of the canal debt became due, and the principal and interest were paid in coin. In July and November \$4,302,600 more will fall due, and will be redeemed in specie by the Commissioners of the canal fund. I trust the good faith of the State, in its fiscal transactions, will be scrupulously maintained, and that the public creditors will not be asked to receive depreciated paper in payment of the debts due to them. At a former period, during a suspension of specie payments, the State officers charged with the management of its revenues paid in coin the interest on the debt then outstanding, and thus preserved the public credit inviolate. If it be justifiable, in seasons of public danger, to make anything but specie a legal tender in contracts between individuals, thus departing from the only standard of value recognized which transactions between independent communities can be made to conform, the policy and morality of continuing the practice in time of peace are both questionable. Indeed, no difference in principle is perceived between a compelsory acceptance of a depreciated paper currency and an adulteration of the national coin. Whatever dilatorness there may be on the part of congress to repeal the law thus affecting private obligations by bringing them to an arbitrary and degraded standard of value; our own duty lowards our creditors is quite apparent. The propriety of some early ac

The State tax levy for the current year amounted to nine and three-eighths mills, of which five and one-half mills were for bounty debt and canal and general fund deficiencies. The total amount of tax collected under this levy will be \$19,580,882.

tax collected under this levy will be \$19,580,882.

SALT SPHINGS.

The quantity of salt from the Onondaga salt springs, inspected during the last fiscal year, was 7,999,799 bushlels, tess by 579,394 bushlels than the production of the preceding year. The net revenue from this source was \$34,622, exceeding that of the preceding year by the sum of \$7,965.

COMMON SCHOOLS.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction has furnished the following statistics for the year ending September 30, 1871.

Total receipts, including balance on hand September 30, 1871.

Total expenditures.

10,322,690
Amount paid for teachers' wages.

6,953,318
Amount paid for school-houses, repairs, furniture.

1,988,460
Estimated value of school-nouses and sites.

Number of teachers employed at the same time for the full legal term of school... Number of teachers employed during any portion of the year... Number of children attending public 11,369 18,031

1,010,242 Number of children of school age in private schools.

Number of volumes in school district libraries.

Number of persons in the State between five and twenty-one years of age..... 131,519 875,175

invest should not be prescribed by law, and any investment by trustees in violation of it made a

misdemeanor.

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

The number of insurance conjugates subject to the supervision of the Insurance Department on the 1st day of December, 1872, was 264, as follows:—

on the 1st day of December, 2012, was 201, all lows:—
New York joint stock fire insurance companies. 93
New York mutual fire insurance companies. 9
New York marine insurance companies. 9
New York life insurance companies. 32
Fire insurance companies of other States. 28
Marine insurance companies of other States. 28
Life insurance companies of other States. 28
Casualty insurance companies of other States. 3
Foreign insurance companies of other States. 13

by the department for the protection of policy holders of life and casualty insurance companies of this State and of foreign insurance companies deing business within it is \$9,107,493 54, as follows:

deing business within it is \$0,107,485 os, as 101lows:—
For protection of policyholders generally, in life insurance companies of
this State. \$3,961,143 54
For protection of registered policyholders exclusively. \$2,815,350 00
For protection of fire policyholders in
foreign insurance companies. \$2,027,000 00
For protection of life policyholders in
foreign insurance companies. \$3,000 00

2,027,000 00

2,027,000 00

During the year an earnest effort has been made to complete the buildings on the upper quarantine structure, known as Homman Island. The three buildings will be ready for use by the opening of Spring. In anticipation of their being in readiness the steamship Albany, which was loaned to Quarantine by the United States authorities, has been returned.

time by the United States authorities, has been turned.

The steamboat Andrew Fletcher, belonging to the Quarantine Department, was burned during the month of December while lying at the dock, and when ne fire or steam had been raised for the last eight hours. The accident was caused by defective felting over the boiler. In view of the necessity which exists for a boat for the general operations of Quarantine and the superintendence of the work now in process of construction on Heffman Island the boat should at once be rebuilt.

missioners of Quarantine, acting under authority of the law passed at the last session of the Legislature, has selected and contracted for a site to be used as a boarding station for vessels arriving from non-injected poris.

I recommend the discontinuance of the Commissioners of Quarantine as a sularised board, continuing them—as a court of appeal from the decisions of the Health Officer, with 2 per digm allowance when actually employed. The main object for which the board was created has been substantially accomplished, and by the arrangement proposed a considerable sum will be saved.

Under the present faithful and efficient Health Officer complaints against the administration of the office have ceased. To be prepared for the possible maladministration of the office have ceased. To be prepared for the possible maladministration of the office have ceased. To be prepared for the possible maladministration of the office have ceased. To be prepared for the possible maladministration of the office have ceased. To be prepared for the possible maladministration of the common that the number landed during the year 1872 as 36,93, and the number landed during the year 1872, 293,603, making an excess during the latter year of 63,964. The institutions of the Commission consist of the emigrants anding depot at Castle Garden, and hospitals, refuges and other buildings sufficient for 2,500 sick and destitute emigrants, with 120 acres of land on Ward's Island. All allen passengers, on their arrival at New York, for whom commutation is paid, are entitled to the protection of the Commission for a period of five years from the date of their arrival. The Board, after an experience of nearly two years, find the commutation is paid, are entitled to the protection of the Commission of nearly two years, find the commutation reo of \$1.50, to which sum it was reduced from \$2.50 by the Legislature in 1871, inadequate to the legislature may be called to the subject. Their for the sum of \$577, 181 38, but for a deficiency to that amount

on all of them, in excess of all income, amount to \$514,373 07—a deficiency to be met by loans or taxation.

For nearly half a century the Eric Canal has been one of the chief commercial conduits between the city of New York and the Western States and Territories, and until the introduction of railroads was the sole channel of communication between them. It has added incalculably to the wealth of the State and to the convenience of its inhabitants, and has been justly regarded as one of the great enterprises of the age. The western boundary of civilization at the time of its completion was, with inconsiderable exceptions, on this side of the Mississippi River. It is now on the shores of the Paciac; and an immense population covers the surface which was then only marked by rude and widely scattered settlements. Although railroads have superseded canals in the transportation of passengers and lighter products of industry, the latter are still relied on for moving bulky articles, and are likely with the progress of improvement to yield as large a revenue as they carned before the business of carrying was shared with the former. While, therefore, the competition of the great railroad lines which are now penetrating the West, for the purpose of carrying on its commercial communications with the seaboard, may reduce the rates of transportation to the lowest standard of profit, there is always a possibility that they may, by combinations, advance these rates beyond what would be a fair compensation. Partial agreements of this kind have more than once been made, but they have usually been of short duration through a breach of faith by some of the parties, for the purvance these rates beyond what would be a fair compensation. Partial agreements of this kind have more than once been made, but they have usually been of short duration through a breach of faith by some of the parties, for the purpose of overreaching and gaining an advantage over the others. In this point of view it becomes of importance for the State to retain the control of the canals, and to hold them as a security to its inhabitants against the possible consellation of other lines of communication, and as affording an ultimate measure of the rates of transportation, which, without such a control, might be indefinitely and oppressively increased. It is scarcely to be doubted, if the State were to part with the Eric Canal that it would soon pass into the hands of some great rallway corporation, and the people would have no check on the imposition of exorbitant charges for freight. While, therefore, we appreciate the immense importance of the railroad system in ministering to our comfort and prosperity, in stimulating our growth and adding to our weakh, and while our legislation in regard to it should be liberal and just, it would, in my judgment, be extremely unwise to disarm ourselves of the power to protect the people of the State against contrivances to which great corporations are but too prone to resort for increasing their profits, forgetting that the principal object of their creation is to promote the welfare of the community at large, and not the interest of their shareholders.

In order to render the power of restraint more effectual, it is desirable that the time required for

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There are four commissioners of Poblic, each with a salary of \$15,000, five Commissioners of Public Charities, five Commissioners of Public Docks, with salarles of \$10,000 each. I believe that in most, if not all of these cases, the organizations would be far more effective if there were in each department one Commissioner, as a responsible head, to perform most of the labor, with the highest salary now paid, and the others with one-fourth of his compensation, as an advisory board. Indeed, no departments have been more economically or efficiently administered than those which have been confided to Commissioners without compensation. There are m:n of character, wealth and leisure, in New York, who are always ready to accept official positions which are merely honorary, and in which the interests of the city are deeply concerned. Their own interests, and their pride in its good name, have always been sufficient motives with them to yield it an active and faithful service. When the city has such a resource, it is not only a needless expense, but a prodigal waste of its means to crowd the departments with superfluous officials, and bestow upon them exorbitant grantities.

The Shoriff, Register of Deeds, County Clerk and Coroners are paid by fees, and their compensation amounts to an enormous sum, altogether disproportioned to their services. I recommend that the fees of their offices be paid into the city treasury, and that they be compensated by fixed salaries.

Unless provision is made by law for uprooting the existing system of municipal government, I much doubt whether the evils which have grown up with it, and some of which cling to farrying out the reform so distinctly demanded by the public voice. In this case, the whole responsibility of seeing that the affairs of the city are honestly and efficiently administered will rest with him, and a failure in either respect will make him justly amenable to public condemnation. The well-known integrity, firmness and experience of the present incumbent of the office o

more than one person for the same body is to be voted for.

CRIME.

The alarming increase in frequency of the crime of murder in the city and its environs demands your most serious consideration. Scarcely a day passes without witnessing a brutal, and in many instances a fatal, assault upon the persons of unorending individuals, usually in drinking saloons, often in the most frequented streets, and sometimes within the very purileus of justice. According to the reports of the Secretary of State on the statistics of crime there were less than three convictions per annum for murder in the State during the nine years from 1830 to 1838 inclusive. In one of those years there was not a single conviction for that crime. Since then the number of cases in which life is taken has accumulated with fearful rapidity. This deplorable increase is due to a variety of causes. Among them may be enumerated the failure to convict, from

AND JANUARY C, 1973.—TRIPLE SHEET.

**A continuous time of managements and the property of the

be granted to any class of citizens which, upon the same terms, should not equally belong to all others.

I trust suitable provision may be made to give to the members of the Legislature a remuneration adequate to their responsible duties. The present compensation was fixed more than half a century ago, and in the meantime the expenses of living are more than doubled. It is neither just nor creditable to the State that its legislators should be kept at a distance from their homes to labor for the welfare of the people and to protect the interests of their constituents, and be compelled to have recourse to their private means to meet their personal expenses. Superfluous offices should be promptly and unhesitatingly abolished; but all who give their time and talents to the state should receive a compensation for their services proportioned to the importance of their duties and to the expenditures which they must necessarily incur in performing them.

should receive a compensation for their services proportioned to the importance of their duties and to the expenditures which they must necessarily incur in performing them.

ALIENS.

In more than half the States of the Union aliens are allowed to take, hold and convey real estate, in New Jersey this privilege has been accorded to them with the natural result of attracting foreign capital for investment. In this State the ancient disability is continued, and with the opposite effect of excluding such investments. If foreigners are willing to come among us with their capital to improve our real estate, stimulate our productive industry and aid us in bearing our burdens of taxation, is it not unwise to repel them? The spirit of the age is adverse to the continuance of all illiberal and unneighborly restrictions; and it is respectfully submitted for your consideration whether these disabilities should not be removed. In England, France and other European countries our citizens are placed in this respect on the same footing as their own citizens and subjects; and, apart from the injurious influence of these personal restrictions upon our material interests, it is hardly in consonance with the liberal spirit of our institutions to adhere to ancient prejudices which have been renonneed elsewhere as unworthy of pelitical systems less advanced than our own.

If Suggest for your consideration whether the time has not arrived to repeal the usury laws, leaving the established rate of interest to apply to cases in which no contract or agreement has been made. It is believed that their continuance at the present advanced stage of civilization and in a State so highly commercial as ours cannot be defended on any logical grounds. It has been feared that their repeal might, in agricultural districts, subject borrowers to the extortion of greedy leaders, but this apprehension has in other communities proved unfounded. In ruder conditions of society, when the laboring classes were to a great extent dependent on capitalists, ther

necessity of paying unscrupulous lenders a premium for violating the law.

Should you not be prepared to follow the example of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and other States by an absolute repeal of the usury laws, I can conceive no possible objection to their modification so far as to leave the rate of interest to be fixed by agreement of the parties on commercial paper and on loans secured by the mortgage or hypothecation of personal property.

I respectfully call your attention to the reports of the commissioners appointed to revise the laws for the excessment of taxes heretofore made to the Legislature and to the draft of a bill submitted by them in the performance of their duty. It is not denied that the existing laws for the valuation of property and the assessment of taxes are unequal, unjust and ineffective; that the valuation of real estate fails far below its actual value; that much the larger portion of the personal property of the State escapes taxation, and that the tax on mortgages of real estate not only prevents the introduction of capital from abroad, but is rapidly expelling our own heretofore loaned on such security and transferring it to states in which no such tax is imposed. The objection to this tax does not come from lenders, but from borrowers and from the owners of real estate, who find it difficult to procure money for improving it. In the city of New York, where there is a deficiency of dwellings, especially for the industrious classes, and where the population is for that reason crowded into narrow spaces, such an imposition is not only a serious obstacle to the extension of the city, but is in the nature of an excise on the health and comfort of its inhabitants. While real estate is known to be valued at one-third or one-half what it is worth, mortgages, where they do not escape the socutiny of assessors altogether, are appraised at their mit value, thus constituting a most unjust and oppressive distinction between twe classes of property holders.

While New York has bee

dence by maintaining the public credit, by reforming abuses of administration, by economizing the means placed at our disposal for the general good, by lightening the burdens of taxation, by cherishing the institutions and establishments which minister to the wants of the people, and by devoting our best abilities to the advancement of the prosperity of the State.

JOHN A. DIX.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Report of the Committee on the Bills Before Congress Rela.... to Emigra-

A special meeting of the Chamber of Cor was held yesterday, with a view to hearing the re-port of a committee appointed to consider the bill pending before Congress for the promotion of emi gration to the United States.

The report was read by Mr. Leopold Bierwith, and commences by stating that in the past twenty six years over seven millions of emigrants have arrived in our ports. It is estimated that three millions brought while them in the aggregate about five hundred millions of dollars. The

five hundred millons of dollars. The report also spoke very in vorably of the work done by the Commissione. So of Emigration and of the present arrangements for the comfort of emigrant passengers of board the different steamships carrying them from Europe to this port. It also showed that the more tailty on board of steamships is reduced to considerably less than one mill, there being only one death out of more than thirteen hundred.

After speaking of the certain inability of one government officer to carry out what has taken a quarter of a century of the earnest attention of a containing the port of the earnest attention of a pool of the port of the says "the Superintendent of Emigration shall provide at the expense of the vessel for the immediate and temporary necessities of those who arrive destitute." It is not likely that with this understanding many vessels will be willing to bring passengers; and supposing that there are such what is to be done with the immigrants who arrive sick or fall sick within the five years after arrival, during all of which time our Commissioners of Emigration have to take care of them. The bill does not tell us—all it has in relation to it are five words, neither more nor less. In them? The bill does not tell us—all it has in re tion to it are five words, neither more nor less, section 3, which provides that \$1 head money sh be paid for each steerage passenger, it says that part of it shall be applied "to assist the temporary sick." In conclusion the committee offer the fol-lowing resolutions:—

Resolved, That such improvements as may still be desirable in the existing laws and arrangements for the saucty and comfort of emigran's on the passage from Europe to the United States, can be obtained only by the model of the Company overnments and of our own. He action of European governments and of our own. He action of the company of the provision of the state in which they land, and that no provision of the state in which they land, and that no provision of the scate in which they land, and that no provision of the scate in continuous comment can relieve such State of that burden. Resolved, That any measure of Congress which could have the other to paralyze the action of the Commissioners of Emigration of the State of New York would be a gross wrong to the emigrant, to the city and State of New York and to the country at large.

Resolved, That a copy of the prefixed report and resolved, That a copy of the prefixed report and resolved. The state of New York has sent to our Representatives in Congress, with the respectful request to oppose the passage of any bill that takes from the State of New York he care for immigrants on and after their landing in our port.

After some discussion, in which Mr. Rierwith in-Resolved. That such improvements as n

After some discussion, in which Mr. Bierwith in-timated that the bill for Congress was an afair gotten up in the interest of railroads and land jobbers, the report and resolutions were unani-mously adopted.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

New Appointments by the New Clerk. Yesterday Mr. Pinckney, the Clerk of the Board of Aldermen, appointed Mr. Francis J. Toomey Deputy Clerk, Mr. James Gowey Messenger, and Mr. Charles L. Mather Engrossing Clerk and La-brarian. All these gentlemen qualified for office before the Mayor. Mr. Pinckney has forbidden smoking during office hours, and in this respect there will be a great improvement on the condi-tion of these offices last year.

BOARD OF ASSISTANT ALDERMEN.

Mr. George W. Betts has been appointed Deputy Clerk to the above Board and Mr. George W. Cod-dington and Mr. John J. Rabineau, Assistant Clerks.

FIRE DEPARTMENT INSPECTION OF BUILDINGS.

The Fire Commissioners are about to make a thorough investigation of all the public buildings

and manufactories throughout the entire city, with a view of not only ascertaining all the mantraps that exist but to show to the public, as well as to our State Legislature, the thousands of lives that are daily liable to be launched into eternity as to our State Legislature, the thousands of lives that are daily liable to be launched into eternity by unsafe boilers and dangerous buildings. In 1871 an act was passed by the Legislature compelling all proprietors of manufactories, hotels, theatres, music halls, public schools, &c., to provide means to communicate alarms of fires to the Fire and Police Departments; yet, strange to say, although this law has been in existence for nearly two years, not one place of the kind has compiled with the same. The Fire Commissioners are also instructed by the same act to detail two members of the Fire Department to each and every place of amusement, they to have entire sharge of the buildings and the direction of all employes of the same for the purpose of extinguishing of fires should they occur therein. This law has also never been put in force, and the Commissioners give as a reason for not so doing is that they cannot spare the men. They have also the power to increase the force to such numbers as, in their judgment, they deem most proper; but they claim that they cannot do so as yet, for they have not sleeping accommodation for the men. They would cheerfully bring the department up to the required standard, but they have been greatly embarrassed by Comptroller Green. In their late estimate they asked for an extra appropriation of \$100,000, with a view of putting up one or two large and commodious buildings, which would accommodate a large number of men, and tendered to the Comptroller several buildings and lots now useless and which would realize to the city over \$50,000, Yet the Comptroller has stricken the above amount out of the tax levy, but for what reason he declines to state. In several instances he has thrown every obstacle in the way of the Commissions, and they seem greatly discouraged at the to state. In several instances he has thrown every obstacle in the way of the Commissions, and they seem greatly discouraged at the manner is which their hands are tied. They held a private consultation yesterday and will meet to-day with a view of laying out some definite plan of action.